



FIRELINE

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

CONFERENCE 2005

Rep. Haigh and Sen. Doumit Lead Effort to Pass Proration Legislation

Senate Bill 5136 passed the Legislature and was signed into law by Governor Gregoire. The law took effect on July 24, 2005 and will be available to fire districts that are in proration in 2006.

Senator Mark Doumit was the prime sponsor of SB 5136 and Representative Kathy Haigh was the prime sponsor of the House version (HB 1106). This legislation will provide up to twenty-five cents of additional funding capacity outside of the \$5.90 county/junior taxing district limits for a fire district whose tax rate has been reduced due to proration.

The WFCA wants to recognize the dedicated efforts of Representative Haigh, who was instrumental in bringing this issue forward over four years ago. She worked diligently with the WFCA to "perfect" this legislation in 2005.

Rep. Haigh...was instrumental in bringing this issue forward...Sen. Doumit also deserves a big thank you for his work on this measure...

Senator Doumit, the prime sponsor of SB 5136, also deserves a big thank you for his work on this measure, as well as his dedication to fire district issues over the past 10 years in the Legislature.

The WFCA would also like to express its appreciation to Senators Joe Zarelli and Margarita Prentice, along with Finance Committee Chair Jim McIntire and Minority Chair Ed Orcutt, for their bipartisan efforts. In fact, the WFCA would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the House and Senate as SB 5136 passed unanimously in both Houses.

And last but not least, thank you to the WFCA membership for your letters, emails and telephone calls. Your legislative representatives appreciate the efforts of the WFCA Legislative Committee and membership in assisting in successful passage of this important legislation.

Conference Schedule Change

Due to conflicts with instructors' travel, the WFCA 2005 Conference class schedule has been modified. These changes reflect the date and time of some of the classes, *not course content*.

The revised class schedule is outlined on Page 5 of this newsletter; an asterisk indicates which class dates and times have been changed.

The remainder of the conference program is the same as originally published in the conference registration brochure. Please contact the WFCA office (1.800.491.9322, wfca@wfca.wa.gov) if you have any questions or concerns regarding the conference schedule. We apologize for any inconvenience this change may cause.

See Schedule on Page Five

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A Message from the President *by Richard Kistler*



Conference time is upon us once again! While at the conference, all of us will find in our packets an opportunity to make a difference in our association.

That opportunity comes in the form of the chance to serve on one of the various committees that are vitally important to the success of the WFCA.

So what committees are there? And how do you get the opportunity to sit on one of them?

To answer the first question, the WFCA has five committees that are appointed annually. They are:

1. The Budget Committee—generally meets once a year under the leadership of our Secretary/Treasurer, to establish the annual operating budget for the association;
2. The Education Committee—generally meets two to three times

per year to review the evaluations of educational programs and to determine courses for the Saturday Seminar Series and the educational programs at our annual conference;

***Serving on committees is
your chance to influence
the direction and the
success of the WFCA.***

3. The Legislative Committee—meets frequently to establish legislative priorities of the association for the upcoming legislative session;

4. The Bylaws Committee—generally meets once or twice per year to review suggested changes to the association's bylaws and to review any resolutions proposed from the membership. Additionally, the committee may, from time to time, be asked to review the bylaws in their entirety and

offer any changes felt necessary; and,

5. The Nominating Committee—generally meets once per year to review nominations for association offices and to establish voting procedures. Often, the meeting of the Nominating Committee is held via conference call.

Now the second question—How do you get the opportunity to sit on a committee?

EASY! Just fill out the form in your packet and submit it to the office staff. The President then sits with staff and attempts to appoint everyone who has indicated a willingness to serve on a committee.

Please remember that if you do not submit the form, your chances for being appointed are essentially nil.

I hope you will consider serving on one of the committees—it's your chance to influence the direction and the success of the WFCA.

2005 Nominating Committee Report to the Membership

In accordance with the *WFCA Articles of Association and Bylaws*, this article outlines action taken by the 2005 Nominating Committee for presentation to the membership.

The committee was chaired by Joan Miller (Snohomish 1) and consisted of the following mem-

bers: Region 2, Ronald Shuck (Franklin 3), Region 4, Scott Kokenge (Yakima 4), Region 6, Fred Maxwell (King 43) and Region 8, Richard Spring (Clark 6).

The committee nominated the following individuals for the 2006 WFCA Board of Directors:

See Report on Page Five

ON THE WEB...

The WFCA newsletter, *Fireline*, is available online. For the latest edition, log onto www.wfca.wa.gov, click **About WFCA**, then click **Newsletter** in the left-hand column. You may also receive a copy of *Fireline* via email—for details, contact the WFCA office at wfca@wfca.wa.gov.

2005 WFCAs Conference Class Offerings

The WFCAs 57th Annual Conference will be held at the Red Lion Hotel at the Park in Spokane, October 20-22, 2005.

A "Welcome to Conference" continental breakfast, sponsored by Emergency Services Insurance Program and Rice Fergus Miller Planning & Architecture, will be held from 8-10 a.m. on Thursday, the 20th. Opening ceremonies will commence at 10 a.m.

There have been modifications to the class schedule, specifically dates and times, so be sure to check out the NEW CLASS SCHEDULE on page 5.

During the Friday business meeting, the IRSRA Committee will outline 2006 revisions to the WFCAs Health Care Program. Find out about new federal regulations that impact employers and employees.

Conference will conclude on Saturday, the 22nd, at 1:30 p.m., following the installation luncheon for the 2006 WFCAs Board of Directors.

The following is an outline of workshops that will be presented at conference. For more information concerning the convention, contact the WFCAs office by calling 1.800.491.9322 or emailing wfcas@wfcas.wa.gov.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, 10/20

◆ TECHNICAL RESOURCES FOR FIRE DISTRICTS

This class will provide an opportunity to improve your district's technical ability to address issues of homeland security and terrorism. Seminar participants will be introduced to the latest technology featuring the new "First Responder Knowledge Base" that provides information via the Internet on equipment needs and resources. There is a wealth of information that can be accessed through resource sharing by emergency responders. Don't miss the chance to learn about this new and innovative program designed to provide financial and logistical assistance to districts.

◆ LEADERSHIP ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN THE FIRE SERVICE

Clark and Brian Snure will present this one-and-a-half-hour seminar outlining the ethical issues commonly encountered in operating and managing fire protection districts. Areas to be covered include: statutory code of ethics, conflicts of interest, common ethical issues, appearance of fairness, incompatibility of offices, nepotism/gifting of public funds and many other issues! This workshop will include a handout for future reference. Come prepared with your questions for the instructors!

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, 10/21

◆ MERGERS / CONSOLIDATIONS / ANNEXATIONS ROUNDTABLE

A panel of fire service members and legal counsel who have successfully implemented mergers will give valuable insight on the positive aspects and pitfalls of mergers. Class attendees will review issues such as labor contracts, funding sources, citizen reaction and more. The second half of this roundtable will address annexations. What happens to voter approved indebtedness? What options do we have to mitigate a city annexation? A discussion will be held on how to work with a city or town that wishes to annex *back into* a fire district. This seminar will provide the information necessary to protect your constituents' fire protection and emergency medical services.

◆ HIRING MANAGEMENT: AVOIDING THE PITFALLS

This workshop will focus on the legal process of successfully hiring administrative personnel. Topics such as, "What should be included in an employment contract?", "How to organize and implement a fair and balanced hiring process", and "How to evaluate the progress of your new hire", are just a few of many issues to be consid-

ered. Legal experts will outline the basic techniques to use when disciplining or discharging management personnel and ways to avoid a wrongful termination suit.

◆ VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS: ARE THEY EMPLOYEES OR VOLUNTEERS?

Attorney Bruce Heller will provide an enlightening presentation on volunteer firefighter programs. Included will be a discussion on how to determine whether personnel are "volunteers" or "employees". Mr. Heller has represented a fire district in a Public Employee Relations Commission (PERC) case which focused on this issue. This seminar will outline what happened in this case, and describe the factors used to determine the volunteers' status. Class participation will give attendees the opportunity to share experiences and obtain solutions.

SATURDAY MORNING, 10/22

◆ LIVING LEADERSHIP: THE FOUNDATION OF PEAK PERFORMANCE

The WFCAs welcomes back Tom Flick who will give a dynamic presentation designed to help class attendees meet the challenges of today's business environment. As an NFL quarterback for seven seasons, Tom understands how a clear view of the "goal line" empowers ordinary people to do the extraordinary. Leaders create positive attitudes, confidence and belief systems that produce consistent winning results. The best leaders aren't interested in having their way, but finding the best way. They prefer not the spotlight, but rather to lead the applause. The goal of a leader is to help people think more highly of themselves, creating contagious "can do" attitudes. Tom Flick will help you develop your capacity to lead others to new heights!

Region 9 Board Member Leon Thomas Resigns Board Appoints David Wheeler as Replacement

Board Member Leon Thomas resigned as WFCA Region 9 Director in August. Mr. Thomas resigned as fire commissioner of North Kitsap Fire & Rescue, causing him to be ineligible to remain on the WFCA Board of Directors.

The Board unanimously appointed David Wheeler, Fire Commissioner of Port Ludlow Fire &

Rescue, to fill the unexpired Region 9 term (in accordance with the association bylaws, the Board had 60 days to name a replacement).

Mr. Wheeler served as Region 9 Director from 2002-2003, and most recently filled the position of Region 9 Alternate.

Elections will take place at the WFCA conference in Spokane to

select the 2006-2008 Region 9 Director; both David Wheeler and Mick McKinley (Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue) are running for the post.

The WFCA would like to thank Mr. Thomas for his service as President and Regional Director on the Board and we wish him and his wife Norma a very happy and healthy retirement.

WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION AUXILIARY

Silent Auction & Raffle

Dear Friends,

Once again, as the time for the WFCA Annual Convention (October 20-22) in Spokane nears, the WFCA Auxiliary is making plans for its *2005 Annual Silent Auction & Raffle*. The proceeds of this auction benefit the Harborview Burn Center. In the past 14 years we have raised over \$50,000 for this project.

This year we are asking for your help!

1. CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE AUCTION. It is through the generosity of people like you that the Silent Auction and Raffle has been so successful in the past. If you would be able to contribute we would be very appreciative. Your generous donations may be left in the Silent Auction & Raffle room Wednesday night, October 19th or Thursday morning, October 20th. Please be sure to identify your district on your donation. Thank you in advance for your support.

NOTE: WE CANNOT ACCEPT ANY PERISHABLE ITEMS.

2. MEMBERSHIP. We need people who are willing to join our group and help or donate to the Silent Auction. The cost of insurance and mailing is going up and if we do not get more members the cost has to come out of our overhead. The dues for this are only \$15.00. All dues will go to help with our expenses and you will have contributed to a very good cause.

Thank you,

Lois Hensley

To contact Lois Hensley, Silent Auction & Raffle Chairperson, write 1603 W. Ballard Rd., Spokane, WA 99208, or call 509.466.2162.

To contact Kim Burrus, Silent Auction & Raffle Co-Chairperson, write 4109 Melody Ln., Pasco, WA 99302, or call 509.547.9476.

NOTE: Only cash or check payments will be accepted for auction and raffle items.

Ads

WANTED by Kittitas 8: Surplus 1.5" & 2.5" structural fire hose, nozzles, fittings, hydrant & spanner wrenches, deck gun, & other misc items needed to outfit a structural eng. Any items greatly appreciated. Contact Chief Moore at 509.656.0324 or montlm@aol.com.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT by Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue: Pub Ed/Pub Info Ofcr. Pick up appl M-F, 8 am-4:30 pm, 10/1-10/28/05 @ Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue, Admin Bldg, 5300 NW Newberry Hill Rd, Ste 101, Silverdale, WA (98383). Min req: 3+ yrs wking as Pub Ed/Pub Info Ofcr or wking in rel field (e.g. Ed, Mkting/Pub Rel, Comp Graphics/Web Pg Design, Prog Devel). Emphasis in pub present & pub spking. Non-combat, uniformed, FT & confidential. Return appl/resume to dist @ Admin Bldg by 4 pm, 10/28. Sal \$59,729-\$63,280 w/full ben pckg.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT by Pierce 3 (University Place): Entry-level & lateral FF/Paramed, closes 10/28/05 @ 5 pm. Visit www.piercefire.org for complete details. For appl call Julie Bonnell 253.564.6619/email jbbonnell@piercefire.org. EOE.

FOR SALE by Pierce 6: 2 '80 Seagraves (E 80-1 & E 80-2) 1,500 GPM Pumpers; \$35,000 ea/OBO. 1 '80 Mack 50' Telesquirt, (T 80-1); \$35,000 OBO. 1 '85 Darley/Spartan (E 85-3) 1750 GPM Pumper; \$30,000 OBO. 1 '94 Chevy NorthStar (Braun NW) Type I, 4X4 ambul (M94-1); \$15K OBO. One '94 Ford E-I Type I amb; \$12,500 OBO. Sales "As Is, Where Is" w/no warr expressed/implied. Inspect @ 17210 110th Ave E, Puyallup, WA 98374. Contact Asst Chief Thomas 253.538.6400, Fax 253.537.7294 or email whthomas@centralpiercefire.org.

DONATION by Snohomish 18: Surplus '87 Ford Ambulance avail for dept in need. Runs but needs some exhaust work. Vehicle donated as is where is w/no warr expressed/implied. For info contact Chief Dale Fulfs or Asst Chief Irv Tellesbo at 360.435.9252.

FOR SALE by Whatcom 2: Surplus '78 Seagraves Pumper, seats 5, 25,953 mi & 1,244 hrs, 8V71N & HT-740 w/retarder, Watrous 1500 GPM sngl stage pump & Code 3 light pckg. Supplied equip: 1 30' exten ladder, 1 14' roof ladder, 1 attic ladder, 2 500w scene lights, misc flashlights, David Clark headsets & 100w Midland mob radio. Dist reserves right to accept/cancel any/all bids. Sale as is, where is & has no warr expressed/implied. Contact Lt. Scott Neher, 360.676.8080 for info. Send quotes to Whatcom 2, 2050 Lake Whatcom Blvd., Bellingham, WA 98229, ATTN: Sale of Pumper. Bids to be opened/awarded @ 11/3 Commissioners' meeting.

FOR SALE by Whitman 7 (Rosalia): '75 Ford Tandem-axle fire tender, equipped w/2500 gal tank & pump, 3000 gal fold-a-tank 10" quick dump, 21,000 mi. Sale "as is, where is" w/no warr expressed/implied. Mail/deliver bids to Chief Tensfeld, PO Box 291, Rosalia, WA 99170 by 10/13/05 at 8 pm. Bids shall state "Bid for Surplus Fire Tender" on outside of envelope. Dist reserves right to reject any/all bids & accept bid deemed in best interest of dist. For info/to inspect vehicle, contact Chief Tensfeld 509.523.3151 or email at billt@rosaliafire.org.

Report From Page Two

OFFICERS

President-----Richard Kistler, Thurston County FPD 7
Vice President -----Les Riel, Yakima County FPD 4
Secretary-Treasurer ----- Joe Dawson, Spokane County FPD 1

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region 1 -----Sharon Colby, Spokane County FPD 3
Region 3 -----Dennis Bjork, Grant County FPD 5
Region 5 ----- Steve Lich, Camano Island Fire & Rescue
Region 7 ----- Robert Skaggs, Graham Fire & Rescue
Region 9 ----- David Wheeler, Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue
Mick McKinley, Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue

It is suggested each nominee be allowed a maximum of three supportive speeches with a maximum total time of six minutes. The membership has the authority to allow whatever time it deems appropriate. Nominations will be accepted on the floor at conference.

Schedule From Page One

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2005

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	*Technical Resources for Fire Districts
3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	*Leadership, Ethics & Integrity in the Fire Service

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2005

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	*Mergers, Consolidations & Annexations Roundtable <i>or</i> *Volunteer Firefighters: Employees or Volunteers?
2:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	*Mergers, Consolidations & Annexations Roundtable Continues <i>or</i> *Hiring Personnel

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2005

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	<i>Tom Flick presents...</i> Living Leadership: The Foundation of Peak Performance
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Summary of 2006 Changes to the WFCA Medical and Dental Program:

Self-Funded Medical Program:

- Discontinuing the 100% PPO Plan
- Adding a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) option. The benefit levels are designed to comply with HDHP rules, allowing contributions to a Health Savings Account for eligible individuals.
- Continuing to offer the COMP PPO 1 and COMP PPO 2 plan options:
 - COMP 1: Annual Deductible is \$100 (individual) and \$300 (family)
Most Benefits paid at 90% (PPO Network)
Annual Out of Pocket Maximum is \$1,000 (individual) and \$3,000 (family), plus deductible and copays
 - COMP 2: Annual Deductible is \$300 (individual) and \$900 (family)
Most Benefits paid at 80% (PPO Network)
Annual Out of Pocket Maximum is \$1,000 (individual) and \$3,000 (family), plus deductible and copays
- Enhancements to the COMP PPO 1 and COMP PPO 2 plans:
 - Increased with Wellness benefit maximum to \$300 per year
 - Increased the Outpatient Physical Therapy benefit maximum to \$2,000 per year
- Prescription Drug Changes to the COMP PPO 1 and COMP PPO 2 plans:
 - At the Pharmacy:
\$12 (Generic), \$25 (Preferred Brand), and 50% (Non-Preferred Brand)
 - Through Mail Order:
\$24 (Generic), \$50 (Preferred Brand), and 50% (Non-Preferred Brand)
- Prescription Drugs for Retirees and Their Spouses:
 - Because Medicare will start covering outpatient prescription drugs, the WFCA program will no longer cover drugs for retirees (or their dependents) who are eligible for Medicare coverage. They will still be eligible for Medical coverage under the WFCA plan. This does not apply to the LEOFF I Retiree.
 - **For LEOFF I Retirees: LEOFF I Retirees will continue to have the same prescription drug benefit under the WFCA plan; however, if they enroll under the new Medicare prescription drug coverage, then the WFCA prescription drug benefit will cease.**

Dental Program:

- Adults are now covered under the Orthodontic benefit (for those Districts that have chosen the dental plan that includes Orthodontia coverage).

2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

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VICE PRES.: DWIGHT VANDER VORSTE, GRANT 10
SEC.-TREAS.: JOE DAWSON, SPOKANE 1

DIRECTORS

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REGION 2: EMILIO BUTTICE, WALLA WALLA 4
REGION 3: DENNIS BJORK, GRANT 5
REGION 4: LES RIEL, YAKIMA 4
REGION 5: STEVE LICH, ISLAND 1
REGION 6: MARK THOMPSON, KING 39
REGION 7: ROBERT SKAGGS, PIERCE 21
REGION 8: KEITH MERRITT, COWLITZ 2
REGION 9: **DAVID WHEELER, JEFFERSON 3**

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: ROGER FERRIS



WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

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OFFICE HOURS

8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M., MONDAY - FRIDAY

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE NOT NECESSARILY
THOSE OF THE WFCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND/OR MEMBERSHIP.

WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

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